

Salinas' adult school slashed with cuts next year, will lose 14 positions

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Adult education in Salinas will be further slashed when administrators are forced to make more than \$1 million in cuts for the 2011-12 school year.

Over the past two years the Salinas Adult School — part of the Salinas Union High School District — has reduced its adult education programs by half because of the pressure to balance its **budget**.

School officials in Salinas and statewide are pessimistic about the near-term outlook for their schools after Gov. Jerry Brown on Wednesday announced he had broken off talks with Republican lawmakers who have blocked a ballot measure that would have extended existing **taxes** for five years.

A total of 14 full-time positions at the adult school will likely be eliminated by July 1, said Alejandro Hogan, associate superintendent of human **resources** for the Salinas district. The 14 employees have received notices stating that they might lose their jobs at the beginning of the 2011-12 fiscal year. The final notices — or official

pink slips — will be sent out in May.

Out of the 14 full-time positions being eliminated, 12 employees have either relocated to the Mission Trails Regional Occupational Program or have accepted an early retirement incentive. The employees who chose to retire will receive 75 percent of their salaries for the 2011-12 year.

A net total of two employees will likely lose their jobs, Hogan said.

"Now that the governor has thrown in the towel, we are bracing for more cuts.

We just don't **knowhow** much." Hogan said. "But we are trying to keep all cuts away from students as much as possible."

Randy Bangs, the director of alternative education and ROP at the Salinas district, said the adult school will reduce its budget to \$2 million for the 2011-12 fiscal year. The current fiscal year's budget is \$3.5 million.

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The total reductions — 14 positions — will amount to about \$1 million — \$700,000 in salary costs and \$300,000 in employee benefit packages. The remaining half-a-million dollars that will be cut include school supplies and the like, Hogan said. Since the district will be paying the retirement incentive, Hogan said the net reductions will continue on to the following two fiscal years — 2012-13 and 2013-14.

The cuts to adult education are also seen in Carmel and Pacific Grove, Hogan said.

"The adult school [in Salinas] is important to the community because it provides a service that none of the other schools in the area provide," said Hogan. "The only other institution that provides educational services to adults is Hartnell College."

The adult school is comprised of four adult education core programs, including classes to study for the General Education Development exam, parent education, English as a second language and citizenship.

Cuts will be made evenly over all the core programs, said Bangs.

"There will be fewer classes but we are doing our best to maximize **whatwedo** have," Bangs said.

Bangs said the number of classes eliminated has not been determined as the department is working to build a class schedule.

Over the past three years, student

enrollment has been trending down.

When students are contacted by the adult school for re-enrollment, the students who do not reenroll for classes either have found a job or need to work more hours, said Bangs.

The future of the adult school lies in the state's economic situation.

"We are taking it year by year," Bangs said. "The adult school is a definite need in the community. We want students to be able to take classes that will help them continue their education or go on to Hartnell College."

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